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WINNEBAGO FOLK-LORE NOTES.

I. *Part of a Creation-myth.* — This world was made by Ma-‘u^w-na, or Earth-maker. When he made the world he was sitting on a small piece of ground, facing the east. He sat thus because the east was the source of all light and knowledge.

II. *Mythical origin of Wolf gens.* — The ancestors of the Wolf gens were all wolves. At that time the Wolf people had no clothing, and they were ignorant of the use of fire. By and by they became Indians. At the creation Ma-‘u^w-na made four brothers: Green Wolf, Black Wolf, White Wolf, and Gray Wolf. These four were the ancestors of the present Wolf gens. At the time of creation these four kinds of wolves were on the surface of the earth; but subsequently three kinds went beneath the earth, and are there now, appearing above ground only on rare occasions. The Gray Wolf represents the only species which remains above ground. When a father, if a member of this gens, named his sons in the former days, he called his first-born son Ke’ra-tco’-ra, “Clear Blue Sky,” after the first mythical Wolf brother. This name refers to the day. The next son was named “Black Wolf,” after the second mythical brother. This name refers to night. The third son was styled “White Wolf,” and the fourth “Gray Fur.”

III. No Winnebago would tell myths during the summer, lest snakes should bite or frighten him.¹

J. Owen Dorsey.

OATH BY BREAD AND SALT. — The “Journal of the Gypsy Folk-Lore Society” cites from a Hungarian newspaper, the “Pester Lloyd,” 1st July, 1881, the following anecdote: In the neighborhood of Rakos Palota there was an interesting scene enacted yesterday forenoon among a camp of Gypsies. A Gypsy who had lost his cash informed his leader of the fact, who summoned the elders of the camp to a council, after which he gave notice at the top of his voice that whoever had stolen the money must at once restore it. As, however, his challenge had not the desired effect, the chief took two poles which he bound together in the form of a cross, and fixed one end in the ground. On the top of the cross he then fastened a piece of bread, and sprinkled it with salt, and upon this those present were directed to swear one by one that they had not committed the theft. One by one the members knelt before the cross and took the oath, till the last member of the band — an old woman — as she was about to take the oath turned pale, put her hand in her pocket and brought out the stolen money. By way of punishment she was then and there soundly beaten and kicked out.

¹ These notes were obtained from James Alexander, a full blood member of the Wolf gens.